

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

2-8-1974

Senate bows to pressure, refuses Wilde-Stein funds

Debbie Sline

University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice



Part of the [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Sline, Debbie, "Senate bows to pressure, refuses Wilde-Stein funds" (1974). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 532.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/532

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

Senate bows to pressure, refuses Wilde-Stein funds

by Debbie Sline

A resolution that would have granted \$200 to the Wilde-Stein Club was defeated by the Student Senate Tuesday night after nearly an hour of emotional debate.

The resolution, defeated by a vote of 28-10-3, was introduced in the Senate last week after the group was granted \$150. The original request for \$400 made by the Wilde-Stein Club was reduced at a Finance Committee meeting to \$150.

Passionate, self-scrutinizing rhetoric from some senators was prompted by reports of student disapproval of the \$150 allotment, which is to be used to print educational materials and finance a trip to Emerson College to attend a gay conference. The senators questioned the function, debating whether, as representatives, they are to vote according to their own views or according to the views of their constituents.

The \$200 resolution would have provided funds to back travelling expenses for two speakers highlighting a conference to be held here this spring at the Hilltop Center. The Finance Committee voted to diminish the original \$400 request to \$150, citing that the planned \$5 registration fee for all participants—estimated at a minimum of \$0—would adequately cover the costs involved.

During debate the resolution was amended to stress that the extra monies were proposed as backing only, to be returned to the Senate if unneeded. Supporters of the issue explained that if the money was granted, all UMO students could hear the speakers free of charge upon presentation of their university ID.

One senator opposed to the resolution, Rick Romanow, stated "We should adopt a wait-and-see attitude to determine whether or not the club can stand as a viable organization."

The issue was resolved in a roll call vote. Despite the pleas of several senators for responsible support of human pride and dignity as represented by the resolution, most senators shared the views expressed by one senator from ATO fraternity. Despite his personal convictions, he stated he must represent his constituents, who did not want more money spent on the gay organization.

Karen Bye, spokeswoman for the club, commented after the vote, "We're not sure how we can pay for this thing ourselves, but there may yet be a way. Perhaps our next step will be to approach the Distinguished Lecture people to see if anything can be done through them."

In other business, the Senate voted to oppose a proposal submitted by the Calendar Committee that would create a six-week interlude between semesters.

This proposal, which will go before the Council of Colleges on Feb. 14, would create problems for UM Vets. The veterans would lose their payments if on vacation for more than four consecutive weeks.

The proposed new calendar provides for fall classes to begin Sept. 4, and finals to be held before Christmas. This creates a 14-week semester, with a long weekend vacation at Thanksgiving. The 15-week spring semester would be similar to this year's.

Vice-president Ted O'Meara described the proposed calendar as having "all the worst qualities of the old one and the new (this year's) one." The Senate rejected this proposal, and decided to form a better calendar later.

The Senate also noted that a public hearing concerning the campus pub issue will be held Feb. 13 in the Town Council Room at the Municipal Building in Orono. Student support by attendance is urged.

Other Senate business included:

A report submitted by a subcommittee of the Student Academic Affairs Committee proposing that up to six hours of credit, under the supervision of a faculty member, be given for student work in the community was approved by the Senate. President Howard R. Neville and the Council of Colleges Academic Affairs Committee support this idea, with the specification that the student is unpaid and that any prerequisites be determined by the department of the student's area of study.